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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

HASEGAWA et al

Atty. Ref.: 1417-370; Confirmation No. 3253

Appl. No. 09/991,874

Group: 1754

Filed: November 26, 2001

Examiner: Lish

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING CARBON BLACK, AND  
FURNACE COMBUSTION APPARATUS AND FURNACE COMBUSTION  
METHOD

\* \* \* \* \*

January 30, 2004

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Applicants hereby submit this in response to the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003 ("Office Action").

A response to the Office Action was originally due January 3, 2004. Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time in which to submit a response or an amendment in response to the Office Action. The fee for a one-month extension of time is \$110 and a check in that amount is enclosed. Therefore, the deadline for responding to the Office Action is now February 3, 2004. Accordingly, this Amendment and Response is being timely filed.